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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

JOHN R. BAZA
Division Director

December 8, 2014

Lori Hunsaker, Program Specialist
Utah Division of State History
300 Rio Grande
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101-1182

Subject: Cultural Resources Concurrence Request, Simplot Phosphates, LLC, Vernal Phosphate Operations Mine, M/047/0007, Uintah County, Utah

Dear Ms. Hunsaker:

The Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (Division) has received a proposal from Simplot Phosphates LLC to expand their large mining operations to the east of U.S. Highway 191, 10 miles north of Vernal, Township 2 South, Range 22 East, Uintah County, Utah. The resource area was surveyed by HDR Engineering of Boise, Idaho, in 2014 and Desert West Environmental of Ogden, Utah, in 2013. The survey included 666.5 acres on the west end of the Vernal Phosphate east parcel. Enclosed with this letter are copies of the cultural resources survey reports, the required cover pages, and the location map provided by the operator.

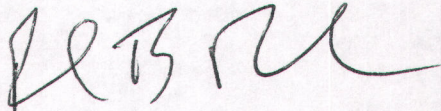
Two new archaeological sites and 21 isolated finds were identified in the 2014 survey, none of which were recommended for inclusion on the National Register of Historic place. Two sites, 42UN8049 and 42UN8053, found in the 2013 are recommended as being eligible for listing, and both of these would be disturbed under the current mining proposal. The mine operator has informed the Division that it may be able to avoid 42UN8053, but this would require a change in the mine plan modification.

The Division has determined these two sites are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and that they would be adversely affected by the proposed operation. Please notify the Division whether you concur with these determinations. If so, the Division will ask that the operator submit a treatment plan for these sites.

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Thank you for your assistance. Please call me at 801-538-5261 if you have questions about this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. B. Baker', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul B. Baker
Minerals Program Manager

PBB: eb
Enclosure: Location map and Survey report
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